

**Central Coventry Fire District
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
November 16, 2010 – 7:00 pm
240 Arnold Road**

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 7:00

2. Roll Call

President: Girard Bouchard Jr.

Vice President: Joe Bonn

**Directors: – Bob Crowe – Linda Giguere – Ronald Gizzarelli -Anna
Mae Lapinski, Armond Niquette**

Treasurer: Tom Lacolle

Tax Collector: Jeanne Graemiger

Clerk: Christine Moniz

Chief : Robert W. Seltzer

Asst. Chief – Scott Tucker

Union President Dave Gorman

Not Present – Chief Seltzer, Deputy Chief Tucker

3. Approval of Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting –

10/19/2010

With the change to #4 to add V.P. to the slate.

**Motion to Approve: Director Crowe Seconded: Director Giguere
All Vote Aye**

4. Communications- None

5. Old Business – Two issues tabled from last month. The first issue pertains to a Firefighter that did not have his pension paid into the state or deducted from his check the first 6 months on the job. We are still looking into whether or not this also happened to any other firefighters. The state has been in communication with Mr. Lacolle and will continue investigating this issue. The Board will also have to vote as to the amount we would have to pay into the state as the match to the pension. Also, the Firefighter will have to buy back the six months.

Another issue that was brought up was a FF would like to put his significant other on his plan. Blue Cross stated that is we want to proceed with this that the Board needs to agree to the addition and write a letter to this effect. The Board with lengthy discussion decided to vote to have the Blue Cross coverage remain as it stands now and form a committee to discuss changes, if any at a later date.

This issue may be one that will be addressed in the Union's contract. The Treasurer will contact Blue Cross to state we are leaving the coverage as is for now.

Motion to leave the Blue Cross coverage as is made by President Bouchard.

Approval of Motion: Director Lapinski Seconded by: Director Crowe

Opposed by: Director Gizzarelli

Director Gizzarelli was confused by the motion and was concerned that his vote would exclude someone that is in need of medical coverage. The board and a member from the union had to explain the definition of the motion and that the Blue Cross policy remains as it stands.

Motion made again to leave Blue Cross coverage status quo by President Bouchard.

**Approval of Motion : Director Lapinski Seconded by: V.P Bonn,
Opposed by Director Gizzarelli**

All Vote Aye and Motion is carried to leave Blue Cross Coverage as is.

Director Gizzarelli would like to vote on forming the committee to discuss any changes in the Blue Cross plan and also have the Union involved to address any changes in the policy. President Bouchard

further names the members that shall sit on the Blue Cross Policy committee. The members are as follows: Union President Gorman, Director Lapinski, and Director Gizzarelli

Motion made to vote for committee by President Bouchard

**Approval of Motion : Director Crowe Seconded by: Director Lapinski
All Vote Aye**

6. Presidents Report – I met with Quirk & Co., Maguire Group, Chief Seltzer, Deputy Chief Tucker, they will submit approximate cost to us for the start to finish project of the new fire station. They will also run the numbers of our cost and payments. The numbers are not final yet and will be discussed at a later Board meeting. Director Lapinski inquired if there are any plans yet for the new station and the President stated that we reviewed the plans at a prior meeting. She was advised that she could stop by to look at the plans.

The President called Mrs. Mathews from the Coventry Board to set up a meeting with two of their board members, their Chief , two of our board members our Chief and also the Union President. They have not gotten back to us in this matter. They are in budget times right now and could not meet with us.

Director Gizzarelli had some questions about the meeting with the

Coventry Fire Board. The President clarified to Director Gizzarelli that there were some questions on the sincerity of the merge and after discussion with Coventry Fire Chief that the board is looking forward to a merge. There was further discussion on the length of time it would take to complete the process. The last merge took up to 18 months to complete.

Treasurer LaColle also clarified that the Unions have already merged, that we have to same treasurer and that they are moving forward to combine budgets to get the process of working together a smoother transition.

President Bouchard also announced that he was asked to moderate the Annual Meeting for the Coventry Fire district. It is held on the 2nd Tuesday in December. Director Gizzarelli expressed an interest on being a part of the sub-committee for the merge. He was made aware that at the last Board meeting a committee was already established.

Next issue discussed was closing The Centerville Bank account and merge it with the account in Coventry Credit Union. This is set up as an Action Item for the Board to vote on.

The President also stated he met with the new recruits and all is going well. They were surprised he was there on day one.

Motion to Approve: Director Giguere Seconded: V.P. Bonn

All Vote Aye

ACTION ITEM: Motion to close the Centerville Bank account and make all tax collection deposits to the money market account at the Coventry Credit Union.

Motion made by President Bouchard to merge accounts and seconded by Director Crowe

All Vote Aye

The President directed the Tax Collector Jeanne Graemiger to start making the deposits into the Coventry Credit Union. She was a bit confused on how she would make the transition. She thought she had to sign paper work first and also mentions that she does not have a stamp to use on the back of the checks. She also stated she did not know how to handle bad checks without having her own account. The Treasurer and the President explained that it is the same procedure and she just had to make the deposits to the new bank. The treasurer promised to get a stamp over to the Tax Collections office. The Tax Collector was advised to work out getting the account number changed in the OPEL system.

7. Chiefs report — Several FF are still out on OJI. The recruit class started on November 15th we are putting through 11 and the top nine will be hired. The remaining two will fill in the future vacancies.

There has been no further discussion with Wood Street. Tis the season boot drive will be held on November 20th.

In the current budget I had planned on the purchase of Panasonic “toughbook” computers and dispatch software for all of our department apparatus. The cost of the project is \$51,512.90. This was budgeted under loan payments at an agreed price of \$1,635.25 per month for the next three years. (ACTION ITEM).

Our Annual Christmas get together will be held at 240 Arnold Rd on Thursday, December 23rd from 12 – 6pm.

Brief explanation of the progress of the new fire station. There will be a meeting with the committee to make some changes and then they will forward the changes to the Maguire Group. The changes will be reviewed to bring into alignment of an affordable budget. This will then get presented to the Directors for approval of a working budget.

**Motion to Approve Chief Report: Director Giguere Seconded: V.P. Bonn
All Vote Aye**

ACTION ITEM motion made to vote on proceeding with toughbook project . Motion was rejected by Director Crowe.

Director Crowe does not want to spend any more money and does not feel we need the toughbook in the trucks. He stated they would be nice to have but they are not necessary. Director Lapinski stated that it was already passed in the new budget. Treasurer LaColle stated that the Board was probably told by the Chief that the line item for Lease and Loan agreements needs to increase but he claims that the Board was more than likely not told that it includes a \$51,000.00 communications package. Director Crowe agreed that he does not recall being advised of the toughbook project.

Director Gizzarelli inquired on if this would be a health and safety issue if we do not move forward to implement this tool and finish with the final phase of the pervis system. He is in agreement to support this system.

Director Giguere made mention to the fact that if we did not purchase this system that we would have \$19,600.00 at the end of the fiscal year not \$51,000.00. Treasurer LaColle agreed that the number was correct and that the Chief increased the Lease payments by the amount we would pay per year.

President Bouchard tried to explain it is not a major safety issue if we do not purchase this system. It is a project that is progressing forward with the times. It was mentioned that the amount was approved at the Annual Meeting but the line item was not specific in what the project entails. Director Lapinski commented shame on us

for not knowing and Treasurer LaColle agreed.

Union President Gorman explained that it is the final phase to the system and now that all stations can communicate with each other, we are finally going to be able to communicate with Fire Alarm. We will receive information about location, water source and the dispatch will also show up on the computer screen not just over the air.

Treasurer LaColle would like to table the issue and have the Chief go over the line item and break it down by each payment.

Director Gizzarelli made a motion to pass the action item and it was seconded by President Bouchard.

President Bouchard redacted his second after great discussion and agreed that it should be tabled until the next Board meeting.

8. Treasurer's Report - We have no Money

Motion to Approve: V.P. Bonn Seconded: Director Crowe

All Vote Aye

9. Tax Collector's Report –Very busy month and we collected \$500,000.00

Motion to Approve tax collectors report: Director Niquette

Seconded: Director Gizzarelli

All Vote Aye

10. New Business – None

11. Good and Welfare – Property evaluations may go down. The President wants the Tax Collector to get working on the Coventry Health Center and report on it at the next Board Meeting.

12. Motion made adjourn 8:11 p.m. by Director Giguere Seconded by Crowe

All Vote Aye.